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07 APR 1994

Ref: 91-FOI-0860

Mr. Steven Aftergood  
Federation of American Scientists  
307 Massachusetts Avenue, NE  
Washington, DC 20002

Dear Mr. Aftergood:

This responds to your May 16, 1991, Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request concerning the Defense Science Board (DSB) Task Force on Space Exploration Initiative Support. Our May 28, 1991, interim response refers.

The DSB has provided the enclosed records as responsive to your request. Since the chargeable costs of processing this request were under \$15.00, there are no assessable fees in this instance.

Sincerely,

**SIGNED**

W. M. McDonald  
Director  
Freedom of Information  
and Security Review

Enclosures:  
As stated

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Joseph F. Shea  
Adjunct Professor  
Department of Aeronautics and Astronautics  
77 Massachusetts Avenue  
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139-4307

Room 33-213  
(617) 253-0091  
FAX (617)258-7566

### DSB Task Force — Space Exploration Initiative Support

#### Memorandum for the File

July 9, 1991

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#### First Meeting — 5/15/91

The DSB Task Force on DOD support to the Space Exploration Initiative met on May 15, 1991.

#### Background

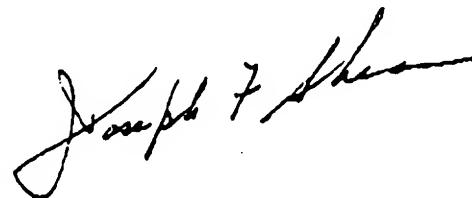
In July, 1989, on the twentieth anniversary of the first Apollo landing on the moon, President Bush announced a renewed national goal for manned space flight; back to the moon to stay, then on to Mars. In the intervening two years, the proposed Space Exploration Initiative has been extensively studied (NASA 90 Day Study, Outreach Programs, the Synthesis Group, NASA-sponsored, chaired by Tom Stafford.) Despite White House support, Congress has been apathetic. No national consensus in favor of SEI as a major element of a logical blueprint for the future of the civil space program has emerged.

SEI will require major advances in Space Technology. A heavy lift launch vehicle, nuclear propulsion for trans-planetary trajectories, nuclear electric generators for electric power, closed loop life support systems, and understanding of human adaptation to weightlessness head a long list required to enable safe, affordable missions.

## Discussion

Since this was a first meeting, and the SEI program was far from being well-defined, the Task Force was not prepared to offer conclusions or recommendations, but offered the following observations based on the presentations and discussions:

1. A joint NASA/DOD program to develop the core vehicle for a National Launch Vehicle is a logical area for cooperation. Because NASA is so heavily committed to existing programs, DOD would be the logical lead agency. Since funds are limited, emphasis should be placed on development of the 580,000 pound thrust engine, the key building block for the system.
2. Advanced propulsion technology can be critical to the manned Martian mission. NASA and DOD must be encouraged to complete a Memorandum of Understanding to continue effort already underway.
3. NASA and DOD should be encouraged to cooperate in the advancement of space technology to their mutual advantage.
4. In other areas, DOD should resist involvement in SEI until national support clarifies and a clear program emerges.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joseph F. Shea".

**DSB Task Force  
on  
Space Exploration Initiative  
May 15, 1991  
SAIC Falls Church, VA**

**Agenda**

09:00 - 9:30	Check In	All
09:30 - 09:40	Opening Remarks	Prof. Shea
09:40 - 09:50	ODS (A) Remarks	Dr. Sevin
09:50 - 09:55	Facility Briefing	SAIC
09:55- 10:05	Ethics Briefing	OGC
10:05 - 10:30	N S C Remarks on SEI	Col. Worden
10:30 - 11:00	SDIO Brief	Col. Lenard
11:00 - 11:30	National Launch System	NASA / Air Force
11:30 - 12:00	Discussion	All
12:00 - 13:00	Working Lunch	All
13:00 - 13:40	NASA SEI Remarks	TBD
13:40 - 14:45-	Road Map (Objectives - Priorities - Timetable - Output)	All
14:45 - 15:00	Break	All
15:00 - 16:00	Executive Session	Prof. Shea
16:30	Adjourn	

  
Dennis J. Granato  
Executive Secretary

**ATTENDANCE LIST FOR May 15 1991  
DSB SPACE EXPLORATION INITIATIVE TASK FORCE MEETING**

**MEMBERS**

Prof. Joseph F. Shea, Chairman  
Dr. H. Kent Bowen  
Dr. James R. Burnett  
Dr. Ashton B. Carter  
Mr. Daniel J. Fink  
Maj. Gen. Ralph H. Jacobson, USAF (Ret.)  
Mr. Ronald Kerber  
Mr. Walter E. Morrow, Jr.  
Gen. Lawerence A. Skantze, USAF (Ret.)  
Mr. Samuel M. Tennant  
Maj. Gen. Jasper A. Welch, Jr., USAF (Ret.)

**OTHERS**

Mr. George Abbey  
BGen. Sam Armstrong, USAF (Ret.)  
Lt. Col. David Beadner  
Mr. Dennis J. Granato  
Dr. Michael Griffin  
Lt. Co. Rodger Lenard  
Mr. Robert E. O'Rourke  
Mr. Neil Schussel  
Dr. Gene Sevin  
Mr. Peter Worden



Dennis J. Granato  
Executive Secretary